

Listing of the claims

14. (Withdrawn) A composition for topical administration of an ascomycin for treatment of skin disorders which composition comprises an ascomycin and a carrier vehicle, said carrier vehicle comprising

- (i) means to retain water in the outer skin layer comprising a urea, an inorganic salt, or a carboxylic acid, wherein said carboxylic acid is a carboxylic acid or derivative thereof selected from the group consisting of a cyclic carboxylic acid or salt thereof; lactic acid; glycolic acid; lactic acid sodium and/or ammonium salt; glycolic acid sodium and/or ammonium salt; lactamide; lactamidopropyl-triammonium chloride; and sodium cocoyl lactylate, and
- (ii) means to hinder water evaporating from the skin.

15. (Currently Amended) A composition in the form of an ointment for topical administration of 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin which composition comprises 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin and a carrier vehicle, said carrier vehicle comprising

- (i) means to retain water in the outer skin layer, and
- (ii) means to hinder water evaporating from the skin,

wherein the composition further comprises water in an amount of from 0 to about 10% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

16. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is an inorganic salt.

17. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is an inorganic salt.

18. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.

19. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.

20. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 16 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.

21. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 18 wherein the hydrocarbon comprises petrolatum, liquid paraffin, microcrystalline wax, solid paraffin, or a reaction product of paraffin and polyethylene.
22. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 19 wherein the hydrocarbon comprises petrolatum, liquid paraffin, microcrystalline wax, solid paraffin, or a reaction product of paraffin and polyethylene.
23. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the carrier vehicle further comprises
(iii) liquid means to solubilize ascomycin.
24. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the carrier vehicle further comprises
(iii) liquid means to solubilize 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin.
25. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 23 wherein the liquid means comprises a wax, a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, or fatty oil.
26. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 24 wherein the liquid means comprises a wax, a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, or a fatty oil.
27. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 25 wherein the liquid means is isopropyl myristate.
28. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 26 wherein the liquid means is isopropyl myristate.
29. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the ascomycin is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight of the composition.
30. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight of the composition.

31. (Withdrawn) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is present in an amount of 0.1 to 20% by weight of the composition.
32. (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is present in an amount of 0.1 to 20% by weight of the composition.
33. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing penetration of an ascomycin through human skin comprising administering a composition according to claim 14 to said human skin.
34. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing penetration of 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin through human skin comprising administering a composition according to claim 15 to said human skin.
35. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment to an inflammatory or hyperproliferative skin disease comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 14.
36. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment to an inflammatory or hyperproliferative skin disease comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 15.
37. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of cutaneous manifestations of immunologically mediated diseases comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 14.
38. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment of cutaneous manifestations of immunologically mediated diseases comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 15.
39. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 14 wherein said cyclic carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of 2-pyrrolidone-5-carboxylate; 2-pyrrolidone-5-carboxylate sodium and/or calcium salt; 2-pyrrolidone-5-carboxylate derivatives of amino acids; and 2-pyrrolidone-5-carboxylic laurate.

40. (Withdrawn) A composition according to claim 14 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is a urea.
41. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 17 wherein the inorganic salt is sodium chloride.